

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE
ON
FAMILIES AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

10:30 a.m.

Room 326 House Office Building

The House Standing Committee on Families and Children's Services was called to order by the Chair.

Members present: Reps. Clack, Dean, Accavitti, Hammon, Wojno, Sheen, Stahl, Hoogendyk, Palmer.

Members absent/excused: None.

Representative Dean moved to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2007 meeting. There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

The Chair laid HB 4736 before the committee.

HB 4736 Byrum Human services; children's services; procedure for placement of children in a foster home; expand to give special consideration to individuals of same religious background.

Stacie Bladen of the Office of Children's Ombudsman testified in opposition to the bill. Ms. Bladen also submitted written testimony. Questions and discussion among committee members followed.

Julie Dow of Representative Byrum's office and Bryan MacKenzie of Representative Polidori's office testified in support of the bill. Questions and discussion among committee members followed.

The following individuals submitted cards in opposition to the original bill, but did not wish to testify:

Ron Hicks of the Michigan Department of Human Services.

Bill Kandler of the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan.

Representative Dean offered the following amendment to HB 4736:

1. Amend page 2, line 15, after "**GIVE**" by striking out "**PREFERENCE**" and inserting "**CONSIDERATION**".

Representative Dean moved to adopt the amendment. Questions and discussion among committee members followed. **The motion prevailed 5-4-0.**

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL

Yeas: Reps. Clack, Dean, Accavitti, Hammon, Wojno.

Nays: Reps. Sheen, Stahl, Hoogendyk, Palmer.
Pass: None.

Representative Dean moved to report HB 4736 with recommendation as amended, as substitute (H-1). Questions and discussion among committee members followed. **The motion prevailed 9-0-0.**

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL

Yeas: Reps. Clack, Dean, Accavitti, Hammon, Wojno, Sheen, Stahl, Hoogendyk, Palmer.

Nays: None.

Pass: None.

Michael Williams of Orchards Children's Services testified and gave an overview of private child welfare agencies in Michigan. Mr. Williams also submitted written testimony. Questions and discussion among committee members followed.

There being no further business before the committee, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

Representative Brenda Clack, Chair_____

Dan Stump, Committee Clerk
House Families and Children's Services Committee, (517) 373-5795